present in the specimen to produce a post-combination affinity reagent and an unbound remainder;

c. separating the post-combination affinity reagent from the unbound remainder to form an isolated post-combination affinity reagent;

d. adding a laser desorption/ionization agent to the isolated post-combination affinity reagent to form a mass spectrometric mixture; and

e. mass spectrometrically analyzing the mass spectrometric mixture to produce a mass spectrum, said mass spectrum indicating whether the specimen contained each of the one or more certain analyte species by exhibiting a mass spectrometric response located at the unique mass-to-charge ratio of each of the certain analyte species.

42 ~~59~~ The method of claim ~~38~~ 41 wherein the step of combining an effective amount of the affinity reagent with the specimen is accomplished using micropipette tip in which there is a filter element to which the affinity reagent is bound.

43 ~~60~~ The method of claim ~~58~~ 41 further including the step of adding a disassociation agent to the isolated post-combination affinity reagent prior to the step of adding the laser desorption/ionization agent.

44 ~~61~~ The method of claim ~~60~~ 43 wherein the step of combining an effective amount of the affinity reagent with the specimen is accomplished using micropipette tip in which there is a filter element to which the affinity reagent is bound.

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 31, 33, 40 and 41 are pending. Claims 31, 33, 40 and 41 have been canceled above. New claims 48-60 have been added. Therefore, claims 48-60 are now pending.

Respectfully submitted,

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